

November 20, 1968

Re XYY

Dr. W. M. Court-Brown  
Clinical and Population Cytogenetics Research Unit, MRC  
Western General Hospital  
Crewe Road  
Edinburgh 4, Scotland

Dear Dr. Court-Brown:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 11 and for your courtesy in sending me the preprints of your papers, which I have found most fascinating reading. Your focus on the disjoint occurrence of hypogonadism and of delinquency is of very great interest. There are some rather obvious speculations that must have occurred to you long since. I must admit that my very first reactions to the story were that it was too simple to be true, but as the complexity unfolds in your present account, the whole subject takes on climactic dimensions. One might wonder, for example, whether different genotypes of Y chromosome might account for disparate phenotypes, particularly in view of the already known heterogeneity of the size of the Y. Alternatively, one may imagine that the lesion is in the control centers in the hypothalamus, or in the pituitary, and that delinquent behavior is a further consequence of the breakdown of homeostasis in those individuals whose gonadal development rises above threshold.

Is it quite impossible to obtain any retrospective growth rate information to help refine our understanding of the effects on stature? I do not have the manuscripts in front of me, but I do not recall whether they point out differences in stature effects as between hypo- and eu-gonadism.

I was most interested in the final sentence of your letter, and would urge you to include Stanford in your itinerary. At present I expect to be on campus throughout March, except for the week beginning Friday, March 21. If you could conveniently be here for either of the preceding Friday afternoons, I would like to ask whether you would be willing to be scheduled for one of our regular departmental seminars, which, I am sure, will attract very wide attention in the Medical School. Our budget for these purposes is somewhat modest, but we can readily offer you \$200 as a help to your travel expenses, and as much as another \$100 if you have no other means to cover your trip within the U.S. Whatever your response to this invitation, I would look forward to seeing you whenever you can arrange it.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

He died suddenly  
Dec. 16 1968